

Amendments to the Drawings:

Figs. 7 and 11 have been amended to label element 42 as "Swing Speed Detecting Means," as required by the Examiner.

Figs. 13A and 13B have been added to show the feature of the present invention whereby the controller outputs the speed reduction command when the detected swing speed is greater than a predetermined speed, as required by the Examiner.

Attachment: Annotated Sheets Showing Changes for Figs. 7 and 11
 Replacement Sheets for Figs. 7 and 11
 New Sheet for Figs. 13A and 13B

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to correct some minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware, and to refer to new Figs. 13A and 13B.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 7 and 11 have been amended as described hereinabove to label element 42 as the "Swing Speed Detecting Means," as required by the Examiner.

In addition, Figs. 13A and 13B have been added as described hereinabove to show the feature of the present invention recited in claim 13 whereby the controller outputs the speed reduction command when the detected swing speed is greater than a predetermined speed, as required by the Examiner.

Submitted herewith are replacement sheets of drawings for Figs. 7 and 11 which incorporate the amendments, annotated sheets

showing the changes made to Figs. 7 and 11, and a new sheet of drawings for Figs. 13A and 13B.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 have been canceled, without prejudice, and claims 9-16 have been added corresponding to the subject matter of (now canceled) claims 1-8 rewritten in better U.S. form

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new claims 9-16 be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that new claims 9-16 now all fully comply with the requirements of 35 USC 112, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection thereunder be withdrawn.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103 as being anticipated by or obvious in view of USP 5,513,551 ("Morishita"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 9, a swing control apparatus is provided which

comprises a controller for outputting a speed reduction command to reduce the swing speed gradually from a speed reduction starting position at an angle short of a stroke end of a swing to the stroke end, when the swing angle detector detects that the swing angle corresponds to the speed reduction starting position.

That is, according to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 9, when the swing angle reaches the predetermined position, the swing speed is continually gradually reduced from the speed reduction starting position to the stroke end.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Morishita discloses a control system wherein the control current is reduced from a level I1 to a level I2 and that the level I2 is maintained until the stroke end (see Fig. 7 of Morishita). Alternatively, Morishita discloses in Fig. 10 thereof that the control current is reduced from various levels between I3 and I4 down to I4 at a set position. Once the current has been reduced to I4, however, according to Morishita the current is maintained until the stroke end. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Morishita discloses that the swing speed is kept constant as the stroke end is approached.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Morishita clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest that the swing speed

is reduced gradually from a speed reduction starting position at an angle short of a stroke end of a swing until the stroke end.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 9, and new claims 10-16 depending therefrom, all patentably distinguish over Morishita, under 35 USC 102 and under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

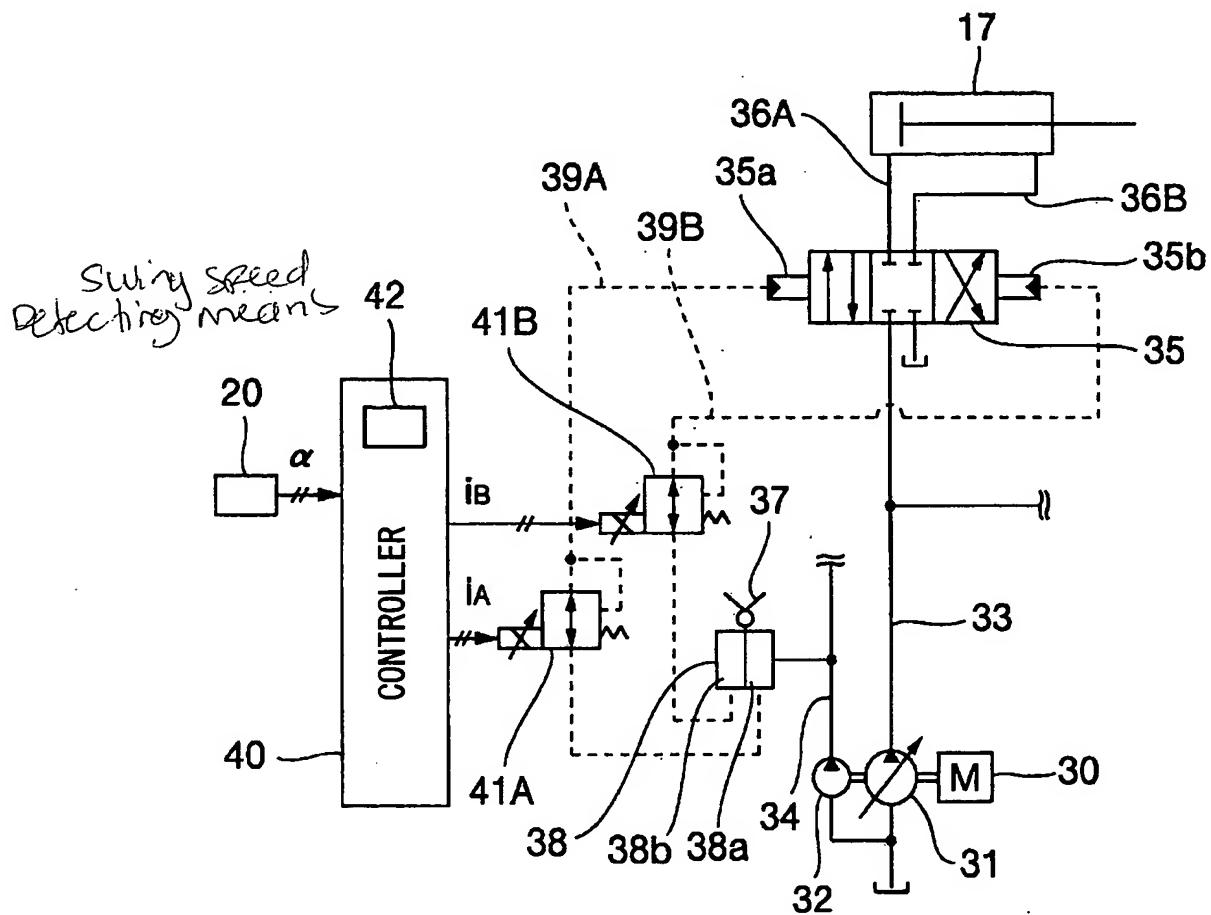

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F I G. 7



F I G. 11

